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WASHINGTON, Oct. 10 (UPI)—THE U.S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY'S CHIEF IS DOUBT THAT NAM WAS DECEASED BY INFORMED OFFICIALS TODAY AS THE VICTIM OF "GUILTS BY ASSOCIATION" WITH STRONGMAN NOG DINH NHU.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY, AT HIS NEWS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY, VIOLENTLY REJECTED THE CIA AGAINST CHARGES THAT IT HAD FOLLOWED AN UNBLESSED PATH TO THE DEATH OF NAM. HE SAID THE CHARGES WERE "UPRAID" AND "WHOLLY UNTRUE."

"I CAN JUST ASSURE YOU FLATLY," THE PRESIDENT SAID, "THAT THE CIA HAS NOT CARRIED OUT INDEPENDENT ACTIVITIES BUT HAS OPERATED UNDER CLOSE CONTROL OF THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE, OPERATING WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL AND UNDER MY INSTRUCTIONS."

KENNEDY PRAISED JOHN W. RICHARDSON, RECENTLY RECALLED AS CIA'S DIRECTOR IN SAIGON, "A VERY DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANT," BUT HE ALSO WAS THE FIRST OFFICIAL TO REFER IN PUBLIC TO RICHARDSON'S "TRANSFER." EARLIER, REPORTS WERE THAT RICHARDSON WAS BEING CALLED HOME FOR "CONSULTATION."

INFORMED SOURCES HERE SAID THAT THE RECENT UPROAR OVER CIA'S ACTIVITIES IN VIET NAM STEMMED AT LEAST IN PART FROM AN AGENCY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT PALACE.

CIA WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN 1961 IN SETTING UP VIET NAM'S "SPECIAL FORCES," AN ELITE MILITARY UNIT SPECIALIZING IN JUNGLE-GUERRILLA WARFARE.

THOUGH TECHNICALLY PART OF THE VIETNAMESE ARMY, THE UNIT TOOK ITS ORDERS MORE OR LESS DIRECTLY FROM THE PALACE, EITHER THROUGH A CHIEF OF STAFF OR THROUGH STAFF OFFICERS WHO KEPT ITS OPERATIONS AS SECRET AS POSSIBLE.

BEHIND THE PALACE, THE CIA HAD BEEN BEHIND THE SCENES SINCE 1955, TOOK A LEADING ROLE IN THE SPECIAL FORCES, WITH CIA VETERANS OF WAR AND WITH THE PALACE'S OWN STAFF AND IN LIAISON WITH THE CIA AND WITH RICHARDSON, WHOSE PUBLIC TITLE WAS FIRST SECRETARY OF THE U.S. EMBASSY.

ON NOV. 2, WHEN THE OPERATIONS OVERWHELMED THE U.S. ON BOARD, THE UNIT OF THE SPECIAL FORCES TOOK PART, BECOMING IN EFFECT A PROXY FORCE.

IN THE MEETING, THE U.S. HAD BEEN THREATENED BY THE VIETNAMESE, HAD BEEN REPORT AGAINST COMMUNISM, U.S. OFFICIALS STATIONED IN SAIGON, ENTIRELY DE-ARMED AND IN THE MEETING AND, BECAUSE OF THE ASSOCIATION, MANY OF THEM ALSO DENOUNCED RICHARDSON.

THE FIRST WAVE OF PRESS DISPATCHES FROM SAIGON BLENDED THE NAME OF CIA'S OPERATIONS INTO THE OPERATIONS OF RICHARDSON'S EMBASSY "COTE." THESE CHARGES USED THE CIA OF "INFLUENCING."

KENNEDY HIPPED YESTERDAY THAT A CONTINUING OVERWHELMING OF THE VIETNAMESE WAS STILL GOING ON IN VIET NAM. IN SAIGON, THE WHITE HOUSE, CIA, THE DEFENSE AND STATE DEPARTMENTS.